GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2030
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
Welfare/Pension Schemes for Indigent Artists
Antony Shri Anto ;Datta Shri Sankar Prasad;Singh Shri Sunil Kumar;Tarai Smt. Rita

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new welfare/pension scheme for cultural artists and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any financial assistance, grant or pension has been provided to such artists in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the amount of pension dispersed during the last three years, yearwise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the pension amount for the artists under the said scheme and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any representation seeking the relaxation in the criteria for the eligibility regarding Artists Pension Scheme and Welfare Fund and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to establish any research institute for the development and promotion of the folk arts and culture in the country and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said institute is likely to be established?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM
(Dr. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Yes, Madam. As per the extant guidelines of the Scheme titled 'Artistes Pension Scheme and Welfare Fund' financial assistance from the Government is provided in the form of monthly allowance to the Artistes recommended under the Centre-State Quota on sharing basis between Centre and State Government /UT Administration concerned, with the latter paying a monthly allowance of at least Rs.500/- per month per beneficiary. The monthly allowance contributed by the Central Government in such cases shall not exceed Rs. 3500/- per month per beneficiary.

As per the Scheme those artistes and traditional scholars shall be eligible for getting the assistance who have made significant contribution to art and letters and in their fields etc. and their income (including income of the spouse) must not exceed Rs.4000/- per month and also their age should not be less than 60 years.

The funds under the scheme are sanctioned and released by the Ministry to the Service Provider, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The details of total amount of funds sanctioned and released to LIC for disbursement of artistes pension under the scheme during the last 3 years are as under:-

Year Amount of pension dispersed (Rs. In crore)
2013-14 15.31
2014-15 17.64
2015-16 17.78

(c) No, Madam.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) No, Madam.